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### REMARKS

The present case now has eleven (11) claims, Claims 1-9, 23, and 24, with Claims 1, 6, 23, and 24 being independent claims. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9 are rejected. Claims 5 and 8 have been indicated as allowable. Claim 23 and 24 are allowed.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,595,833 to Gardner, et al. Gardner was described as teaching a fuel cell receptacle with a plurality of manifolds. A plurality of fuel stacks (24) was defined as a stack having individual ports, *i.e.*, distribution members on both opposite ends.

The Applicant asserts that the amendment made to Claim 1 overcomes the rejection. Specifically, the Applicant has amended the claim to indicate that each of the fuel cell ports is "individually" interfaced with the manifold. Gardner only shows the use of the open manifolds 14, 16 in the context of the core region 12. *See* Figs. 1 & 2. By having the ports individually connected to the manifold, the fuel cells herein may be removable and replaceable. *See* specification at page 3, lines 27-29 and page 8, lines 15-18. Likewise, the Applicant asserts that Claim 6 is patentable over Gardner given the existing "individual" language.

### INTERVIEW

The Examiner is thanked for his time and consideration during the phone interview of July 1, 2004. The Gardner reference and the amendment made herein were discussed.

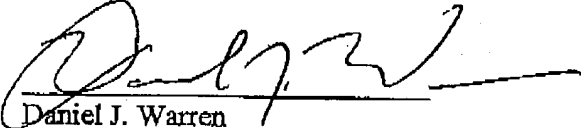
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**CONCLUSION**

The Applicant believes that it has responded to each matter raised in the Office Action. Any questions may be directed to the undersigned at 404.853.8028.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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